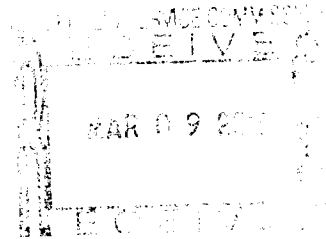


222463

**Ed & Francine Miler • 106 South Laurel Street • Summerville, SC 29483**  
(843)875-2682



March 7, 2010

Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Sirs,

Your proposed rate hike of 9.52 percent in these uncertain and troubled times is unconscionable! We are looking at massive tax increases if the current administration has its way with health care and the other huge spending programs on its agenda. I am a retired Army officer and my sole sources of income are my military pension and Social Security annuity, both of which had no cost of living adjustments (COLA) this past year, and the outlook of an adjustment for this current year is also bleak. I am certainly not alone, as there must be thousands of retired people with fixed incomes in your service area who also will be severely affected by your proposed rate hike. The bonuses alone of each of SCANA's top four officers (source: Feb 14, 2010 Charleston Post and Courier) are higher than my total annual military retired pay. My average utility cost for 2009 was \$304 per month, or about \$3650 a year. 9.52% of that amount is about \$347, which is far more than an increase of \$140 a year by July 2011 quoted in the Post and Courier based on your data (I assume).

I invite your attention to the three charts on the next page. The first two show that energy consumption, natural gas measured in therms and electricity measured in kilowatt hours, is relatively constant over the nine year period, while the average monthly cost as shown on the third chart has increased from about \$200 per month in 2001 to about \$300 this past year. This is an increase of over 50 percent. And you want to add another \$30 to my monthly energy payment? Poor judgment on your behalf, I'd say.

Sincerely,

Edward H. Miler  
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## Annual Utilities Usage

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Mon Cost Avg - \$	202	231	238	223	250	250	261	288	304
Mon Avg - Therms	52	65	55	48	42	41	44	55	54
Mon Avg - Kwhs	1705	1982	1959	1807	1923	1785	1776	1843	1934

